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New Buffalo Times

NEWS
\$1

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Thursday, January 11, 2024

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TOP OF THE BOARDS...
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LA PORTE INVITATIONAL

— PAGE 9 —

PHOTO BY STAN MADDUX

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David McNabb presents the special
declaration to Ken Schiffer,
Catherine Worcester and Rick Fuller



Guests celebrate at Weko Beach House



Kimberlee Wendt, Rick Fuller,
Patty Knicker, Ken Schiffer,
David McNabb and Catherine Worcester



Bridgman welcomed as part of Harbor Country regional brand

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A community further up north the southwestern Michigan shoreline was welcomed into the Harbor Country fold Tuesday, Jan. 9.

"It is my honor to announce the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has unanimously voted to accept the signature petition signed by the majority of Bridgman businesses to officially embrace Bridgman as a Harbor Country community," Kimberlee Wendt, executive director of the chamber, said during a reception at Weko Beach House in Bridgman Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Wendt said that Bridgman is the first community to be added to the original eight communities under the trademarked Harbor Country brand in its long history.

"The Harbor Country brand has represented the communities of Michiana, Grand Beach, New Buffalo, Lakeside, Harbert, Sawyer, Union Pier and Three Oaks for over 43 years...The Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce owns the Harbor Country trademark and holds its reputation to meet the highest of standards," she said.

During the vote for accepting Bridgman

as a Harbor Country community, Wendt said the following comments were made: "It's natural" and "It just makes sense."

"Bridgman is a natural progression of the Harbor Country legacy, playing host to the route to the wine country with a beach town smile...It has so many similarities with its Harbor Country neighbors to the south that many believe Bridgman to be already part of Harbor Country," she said.

Currently, the chamber has 420 members, with around 16 of them being located in Bridgman.

The chamber will offer "full support of Bridgman under the Harbor Country moniker," which Wendt said includes its "activities and endeavors of its business organizations, the Greater Bridgman Area Council for Growth and Advancement and its municipalities, the City of Bridgman and Bridgman Township."

The following representatives of the community were presented with a special declaration, which officially designated Bridgman as a part of the Harbor Country brand, by David McNabb, president of the

chamber's board of directors: Catherine Worcester of Accents, Rick Fuller of The Sandpiper and Ken Schiffer of Apollo Seiko LTD.

Worcester, whose business is already a part of the chamber, said that becoming a part of the chamber seemed to be a natural progression of the community.

"I have very much appreciated the quality of the magazine (the Harbor Country Guide), the attention that, as members, the group gives the individual merchants - to be official, I mean, it should be," she said.

Wendt said that the businesses that the chamber is composed of contribute to that "sigh of relief" that visitors give once they pass Exit One and enter Harbor Country - a region that's replete with "pristine forests, prairies and neverending warm, sandy beaches."

"Business owners thrive by providing their services to neighbors and visitors and the main arteries of commerce are Red Arrow and U.S. 12 Highway along the state line - the towns and cities within that triangular region share a commonality of experiences, small town charm and big culture," she said.

*The best cure
for the body
is a quiet mind.*
— Napoleon Bonaparte

CORRECTION:

The "Hikers start the new year off on the right foot with 'First Day Hike' article on page 6 of the *New Buffalo Times* Thursday, Jan. 4, issue should've stated that the John Morley, not Motley, Drain divides the Flynn Woods Preserve Property and connects to Cherry Creek, a direct tributary to Lake Michigan. Per the county drain commissioner, the drain was established in 1912.

Local
Government
Meetings

New Buffalo Times
Democracy Requires Transparency

- CITY OF NEW BUFFALO**
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI,
JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN,
VANCE PRICE

City Council meets on the 3rd Monday
of each month at 6:30PM

**CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING
COMMISSION MEETINGS**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month
at 5:30PM

NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT,
JUDY H. ZABICKI, PATTY IAZZETTO,
JACK ROGERS

Board meets on the 3rd Monday
of each month at 4PM

**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday
of each month at 6:30PM

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Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders

**NEW BUFFALO AREA
RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY**
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday
of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo
Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway
New Buffalo

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LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS,
DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER,
VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY,
GREG VOSBERG

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CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD**
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK,
LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN,
BILL MARSKE

Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd
Thursday of each month at 6:30PM

**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Wednesday
of each month at 6:30PM

THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday
of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday
of each month at 7PM

GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday
of each month at 7PM
MARY ROBERTSON, CLERK
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN,
JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR,
EDWARD BRANDES

MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday
of each month at 1PM

Comments are added to the Action Plan at the town hall



Town hall participants add comments to the Action Plan



Town Hall solicits input on
new Grand Beach master plan

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Creating a new master plan for the Village of Grand Beach requires following a universal process, Diana Cody said. “You start off with where are we now, what is our village like, what is our school district like, what is our corporation like and then what is it we want our entity to be - in our situation, what do we want Grand Beach to be?” Cody, who serves as the chair for the Master Plan Task Force, said at a town hall for the plan in the upper level of Grand Beach Village Hall Saturday, Jan. 6.

Results from two surveys that were sent out to residents were tabulated by Survey Monkey. Last October, council members approved hiring Becket & Raeder to

review and edit the master plan at \$130 an hour, with a cost not to exceed \$4,000.

The process started last spring, when a survey was sent out to residents with questions related to demographics as well as what are the village’s most treasured aspects and what are desired improvements.

As revealed by the survey, improvements, which are in the current master plan, are beaches, beach access, the playground, the roads and the village hall.

The task force evaluated many aspects of the village, such as the roads, sidewalks and buildings, which provided input for them on what needs to be improved. The information served as the basis for focus groups, which concentrated on what the

future “vision” is for Grand Beach, Cody said. From there, the task force created a vision statement.

A second survey, which was sent to each of the around 460 households in the village and netted over 200 responses, had 35 needs and wants that were identified through the aforementioned process. Households were asked to rank them as a high priority, somewhat of a priority, not much of a priority and not a priority. From that data that came back a list of 22 needs were prioritized, with the list of items being prioritized as they came up in the survey. These 22 items, which are available at grandbeach.org, were used to create an

Not what we have But what we enjoy,
constitutes our abundance.
— Epicurus

Participants in the town hall congregate in the village hall



action plan. The highest rated item is to maintain zoning, which requires only single-family houses be built in Grand Beach, with other items ranging from repairing/replacing golf course irrigation and repairing, replacing and maintaining roads. Other items have already been addressed, such as creating an exploratory ongoing committee to determine options to improve/bring back beaches and enacting a tree ordinance.

Using the information from the survey, focus groups and everything else, five master plan goals were created that Cody said should “encompass everything in that list of objectives.”

Participants divided into small groups and rotated around the room, writing comments on the Action Plan.

With regards to accountability on the Action Plan, Cody said the plan is for each member of the Grand Beach Village Council and some of the Planning Commissioners will get a list of items that they’re responsible for in the master plan and will provide a yearly update.

With regards to finances, Cody that Grand Beach has the smallest operating millage, which is 5.9 mills, out of all the

villages in the county.

Grand Beach tax revenues from last fiscal year ending Nov. 30 were \$965,000, which was almost \$100,000 more form the previous year. This could be attributed to the large number of homes that are going online and being on the tax rolls as well as reassessed values through property sales.

It was stated by council president Harry Walder that about 20 more homes are still under construction.

Cody said that the village receives three property tax bills, which cover different items: one from Grand Beach in the summer, one from New Buffalo Township in the summer and another one from the township in the winter. Non-residents pay an additional 9 mills on their tax bills from the township.

A large part of the money that comes into the village goes for salaries and benefits, such as for the police, village office, maintenance and golf staff. Direct labor costs are 77-83% of the budget, with the remaining 17-23% going toward other expenses such as utilities, roads, materials, repairs, landscaping, professional services and extraordinary events.

TOWN SQUARE

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New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

RESPECT...

January is School Board Recognition Month. This is a time to recognize the individuals who approach their volunteer work like it is a full-time job and with extraordinary dedication to public schools. They are citizens whose decisions affect our children and build our community.

School boards are charged with making decisions that can sometimes be quite difficult or require sifting through a great deal of information. They contribute hundreds of hours each year leading New Buffalo Area Schools.

Collectively, school board members across the state spend more than 7,500 hours on professional development to keep well-informed of the latest trends in educational leadership, are deeply involved in community activities and spend many hours at extracurricular events.

Through their dedication, collaboration with other school district staff, their governance and advocacy, they are building the future of education in Michigan.

This month, we encourage all members of the community to thank a board member. Take this opportunity to show our year-round appreciation for these servant leaders and begin to

better understand how local trustees work together to prepare today’s students to be tomorrow’s leaders.

The men and women serving New Buffalo Area Schools and their years of service are: Denise Churchill, Stephen Donnelly, John Haskins, Jennifer Summers, Vanessa Thun, Greg Vosberg, and Lisa Werner

For more information about the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education, visit www.nbas.org
— ADAM BOWEN,
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS

THANKS FOR THE TURNOUT...

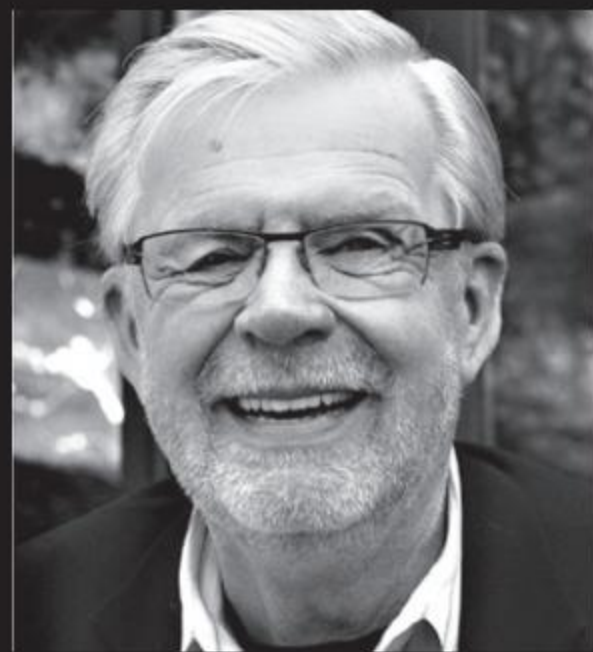
New Buffalo Township Fire Department would like to thank everyone who attended the pancake breakfast to help raise money for the Special Olympics. We had a great turnout and raised money that will go to a great organization. It’s nice to see so many people in the community coming out to help and support the department. We have many things to come for the New Year and appreciate your continued support. Please come out February 3rd to Watermark Brewery in Stevensville, Michigan to join in the fun.

— CHIEF JAMES FLICK,
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT

SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



The National Football League's 2023 regular season came to an end Sunday night.

Surprisingly, the last day of the season was much like the first day of the season for the Bears.

The feelings about the coaching staff, the quarterback, the defense, and the team in general, changed from week to week. The loss to the hated Packers on opening day was devastating, but the loss to the Packers on the final day of the season didn't hurt that much. A win on opening day might have set the team up for a more successful season but the loss on the final day hardly dampened spirits at all.

Make no mistake, the Bears have vastly improved. Huge decisions are on the horizon, but no matter which direction they go, the future looks bright.

I'm glad I'm not Ryan Poles, the Bears general manager, and the one who will have to make most of the decisions. His job seems safe, but will he keep the coaching staff? Earlier in the season, I was sure that coach Matt Eberflus would be fired, but now I don't want him to be. The team, and individual players, improved so much that Eberflus should stay. Personally, I hope he chooses a new offensive coordinator and retains his role as defensive coordinator.

Poles next big decision will be the draft. There are a couple of quarterbacks coming out of college, and Justin Fields has shown that he, too, can be that guy. Most fans have vacillated between drafting possibly the next Patrick Mahomes, or continuing on with Fields.

I'm just not sure what the right

direction is. If they don't draft a quarterback, they could

draft a wide receiver who could help Fields reach his potential, or trade the pick, once again, for a haul like they did last year. The addition of their draft picks, a few key free agents, and the improvement of their young players should actually allow the Bears to beat the Packers, at least once, next season. Maybe propel the team into the playoffs for the first time in a long time.

The off season will certainly be exciting for the Bears and their fans, and I can hardly wait for next season to begin.

While I was writing about the Bears, I checked to see if the Cubs had signed any free agents since I last looked, and of course they have not.

Baseball's off season has been pretty boring unless you happen to be a Los Angeles Dodgers fan.

I really do wish that fans could be included in the collective bargaining negotiations. Agents seem to think that holding out for the last possible dollar is good for baseball, but I couldn't disagree more. Spring training begins in about five weeks and, as a fan, think it would be nice to know who I will be rooting for.

Glennon Doyle said, "The only meaningful thing we can offer one another is love. Not advice, not questions about our choices, not suggestions for the future, just love."

Happy New Year. Don't forget to be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

PUBLIC NOTICES are an effective way for agencies of government to make official announcements.

State law requires these notices be printed in newspapers.

Nearly two-thirds of active Michigan voters* would be concerned if government placed these notices on websites because important information could be concealed from the public.

* EPIC-MRA 2011

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Underdog Bison win basketball tournament

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School boys' basketball team received its first major taste of victory by winning a tournament after the New Year.

The Bison won the Bangor Holiday Invitational Saturday, Jan. 6, by defeating Gobles in the finals 26 to 23.

Head Coach Nate Tripp said it was a low scoring game by design after choosing to slow down the game on both sides of the court to counter the size and speed advantage of Gobles, who have two 6'5" players and one nearly as tall.

"They are so long and athletic. They're a really good team," he said.

Gobles scored the first seven points of the game, which forced the undersized Bison not to panic while sticking to their game plan of working the ball no matter how long it took until finding an open shooter.

"We intentionally slowed the ball way down," Tripp said.

By spreading out the offense, defenders from Gobles were forced to move further away from the rim to guard opposing players.

Eventually, open shots were created down low for players

like sophomore center Lucas Forker, who led the Bison with 11 points.

The Bison (4-6) also played a half court style of defense to keep Gobles from scoring on too many fast breaks.

A similar style of play was also used to open the tournament on Jan. 4, with a 46 to 33 victory over Bangor.

Forker also led the team in scoring with 18 points. Senior Andres Becerra and sophomore Sam Tripp contributed 10 points apiece.

Tripp said slowing down the ball was a drastic move for his players used to a faster pace on

both sides of the court since the beginning of last season.

He said his players will continue to play at a slower pace not just to neutralize more talented teams but to cut down on the high number of costly turnovers and other mistakes they were making previously.

Tripp said his still young and inexperienced team, which won just two games last season, is much improved but not enough to succeed with an up tempo style of play.

"Everything is happening

quicker than they can react to. We'll run when the opportunities present themselves. On defense, no more pressing and trapping. That's just not who our team is yet," he said.

Tripp said winning the tournament seemed to be a real morale booster for his players who want to win and work very hard to do so.

The players ran out to the half court line to accept their championship trophies.

"It feels great. They got to celebrate. They got to taste what victory is," he said.



NBA legend watches son compete in La Porte

BY STAN MADDUX

A former NBA superstar was in La Porte Thursday, Jan. 4, watching his son compete against some of the best college prep basketball teams in the nation.

Carmelo Anthony was seated near the rim on the opposite side of the court from the front doors at the Civic Auditorium.

His son, Kiyan, is a member of the Long Island Lutheran High School team, which played La Lumiere to open the third annual La Porte Invitational televised on ESPNU.

His 6'4" junior son is a shooting guard and one of the highest recruited players in the nation.

Anthony said he went to the game to support his son, his school and the other teams in the invitational.

"Just kind of being a proud parent. Just coming out to support the kids. That's what it's about," he said.

Anthony played 20 NBA seasons and scored over 20 points a game annually until his last five years in the league.

Nowadays, Anthony said his focus is on being on the best father he can be.

"I'm trying to be a dad. That's what I'm trying to be. That's all. Trying to be a good dad. That's it," he said.

Right now, Anthony said he wants his son to enjoy his life as it is right now and, although he's encouraged by his son's level



of play, only time will tell if he reaches the NBA.

"It's still early for these guys. I'd rather them enjoy this moment here first. We got a long way to go," he said.

At halftime, Anthony went outside which did not go unrecognized by his teenage fans who waited for him to return in hopes of getting his autograph.

"He's like one of my favorite players of all-time," said Isaac Seifert, a sophomore at New Prairie High School.

S eifert and about a dozen other children rushed toward Anthony when he came back inside the building.

He signed autographs for several of his youthful fans before returning courtside to watch the second half.

Anthony grew up in New York City and retired after the 2021-22 season with the Los Angeles Lakers.

He spent most of his illustrious career with the Denver Nuggets and New York Knicks.

The No. 11 ranked La Lumiere, which was trailing by double digits at halftime, cut the lead to two points in the third quarter; however, No. 2 ranked Long Island Lutheran, proving too much, won by nearly 20 points.

Usually the most dangerous things in your life are other people. — Dino N. Fatouros



La Porte begins push to bring back nationally televised basketball

BY STAN MADDUX

Talks will be getting underway soon for La Porte to once again host basketball games featuring some of the most highly recruited boys' college prep players in the nation.

The third annual La Porte Invitational, which was televised this year by ESPN and YouTube TV, has been viewed as the most heavily attended, with near sell-out and sell-out crowds for most of the 10 games over a three-day period.

Nearly every one of the over 1,100 seats in the historic Civic Auditorium was filled for the last game Saturday, Jan. 6, between La Lumiere, the hometown team from northern La Porte County, and Wasatch Academy out of Mount Pleasant, Utah.

Ten of the 12 teams are in the National Interscholastic Basketball Conference.

While La Porte County Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Jack Arnett said the conference will decide whether the three-day invitational comes back to the city, given factors like heavy attendance, he can't think of reason for it not to return.

"It's a little early to say for sure but the City of La Porte wants it, La Lumiere wants it and the community wants it," he said.

He said local restaurants and hotels that were extremely busy from the influx of spectators, including former NBA superstar Carmello Anthony, would also like to see it return.

Anthony attended the

Thursday and Friday games to watch his highly recruited son, Kyrie, a junior at Long Island Lutheran High School, play in the invitational.

"I'm just kind of being a proud parent. Just coming to support the kids. That's what it's about," he said.

Anthony later had dinner at Trattoria Enzo, a family-owned Italian-style restaurant at Michigan Avenue and State Street across from the downtown courthouse.

"The restaurants are getting hit hard. Our hotels are going to get a spike from this. That's why we do these things to bring the dollars into our county," Arnett said.

Arnett said another benefit is the exposure that the nationally televised games bring to the city.

He said that, while it's hard to measure exactly what that does for La Porte, the exposure comes at no cost and would be cost prohibitive if the city had to pay for equal time on national television.

"Certainly, the economic side of it is big and that's why we do these things. To bring those dollars into the county," he said.

A little uncertainty seems to have been cast on the future of the La Porte Invitational because foot wear maker, Nike, recently became involved with the conference and could have a major voice in the decision making.

Arnett said negotiations in previous years involved strictly members of the conference but now striking another deal could hinge on new faces.

"With Nike just coming in, we don't know who's going to have the final say on the television rights and all of that," he said.

Arnett said another strong selling point is the Civic Auditorium providing an atmosphere similar to the movie "Hoosiers," since the structure was built in 1929.

The building underwent some recent improvements, like much more comfortable seats replacing all of the original all wooden ones, along with wider aisles and hand rails for spectator safety at all of the Civic Auditorium events.

Thomas Kelley, an assistant mens' basketball coach for Michigan State University, relished the venue Saturday night while scouting players on the court.

Kelley heard about the facility from previous coaches who attended the invitational but it was more than he expected during his first visit.

"I didn't believe it was going to look like this, though. This is real nice. Great set up. Great environment," he said.

Arnett said he also believes U.S. Steel becoming a sponsor of the games this year also provides an edge in the upcoming talks on the competition returning in 2025 and, perhaps, beyond.

He said his focus in the talks will be on landing a multi-year deal.

"I'd like to nail this down long term so we can do some long term planning and marketing," Arnett.

Heart attack blamed for death of driver in crash

BY STAN MADDUX

It appears a medical condition was the cause of a two vehicle crash and death of one of the drivers in La Porte County.

La Porte County Coroner Lynn Swanson said an autopsy revealed 60-year-old Charles

Adams had extensive heart disease and a prior heart attack before the Wednesday, Jan. 3, afternoon collision.

She said witnesses reported he was driving erratically before striking another westbound passenger vehicle in the rear on U.S. 20 near 500

West in Springfield Township.

Swanson said the erratic driving was more than likely the cause of Adams having another heart attack while behind the wheel.

After the rear end collision, La Porte County Police said his vehicle went into a ditch and

rolled multiple times.

Swanson said the autopsy revealed Adams suffered crushing head injuries from the accident but it's strongly believed his death was strictly

from the heart attack he suffered during his trip.

"He had extensive heart disease," she said.

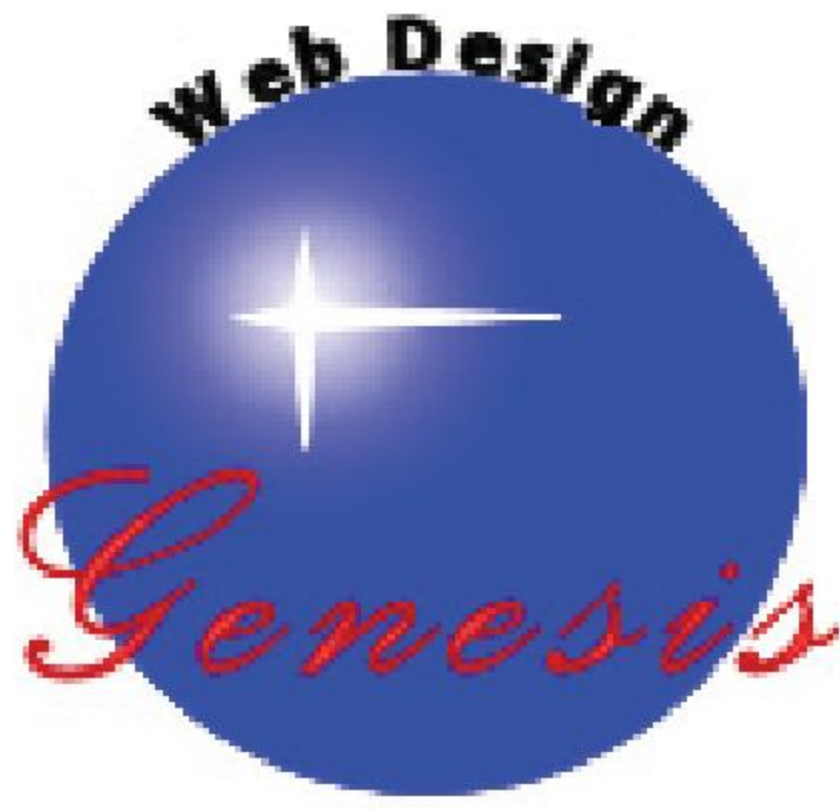
Adams was from Seattle, Washington.

The other driver, 55-year-old Mark Burch of Porter, was not injured, police said.

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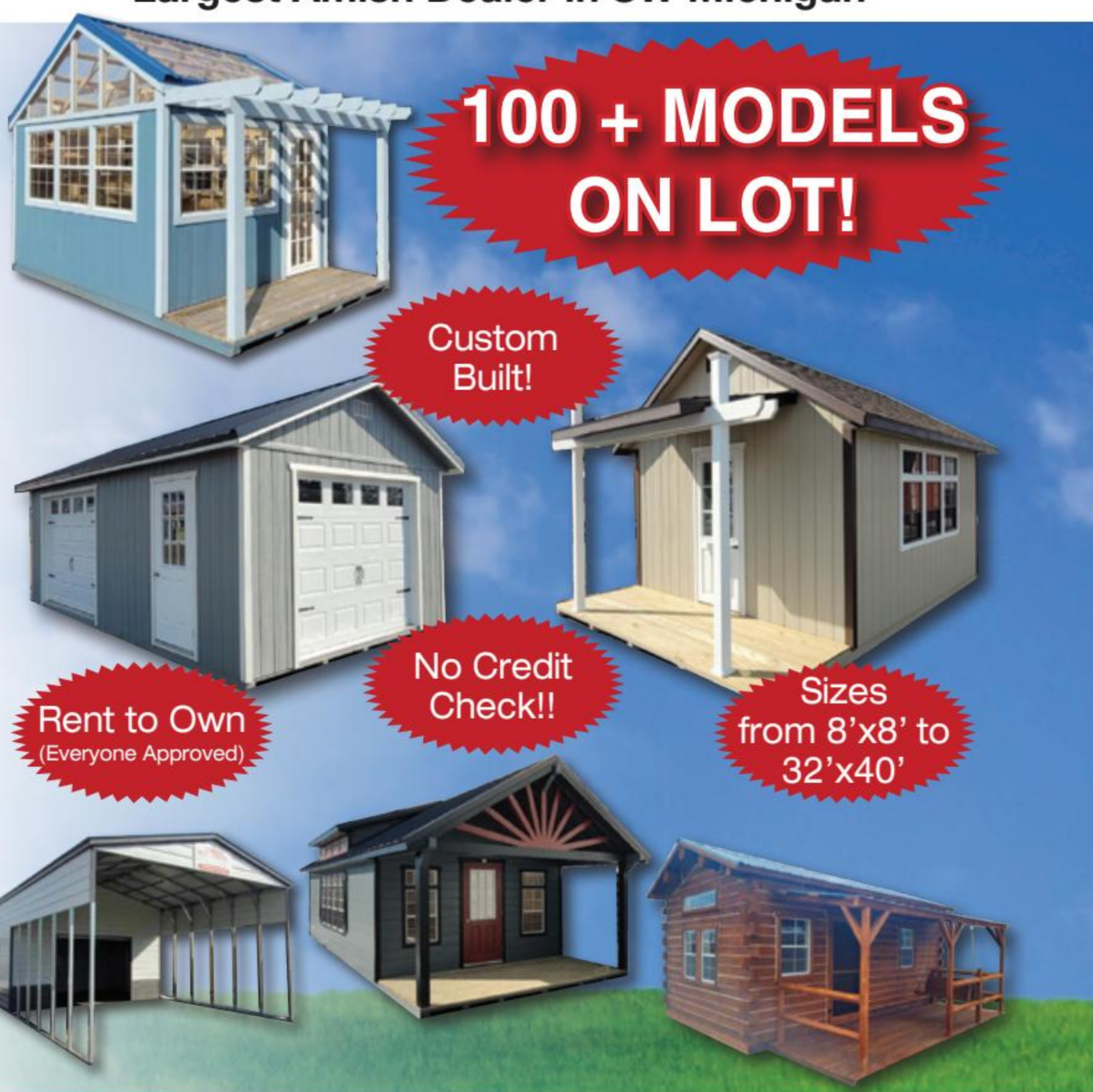
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HOROSCOPE

JANUARY 11-17, 2024
AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19



Your achievements will be recognized, giving you the chance to relax. Take this as an opportunity to balance your need for constant action with some stillness. Remain calm and receptive. It is all about nurturing your body and opening yourself up to receiving. Relax and just let things flow.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20



Some of the skills you have been studying may be called into action. Your ability to utilize inner knowledge will have a great impact on your career and service sectors now. Don't be afraid talk with professional types as the information you receive from them will improve your present trajectory.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21



A beneficial connection will be made at work or with finances this week, so approach money issues with certainty now. You will be lucky in anything involving settlements or endings. Move away from responding to financial obligations emotionally, try having a more controlled logical response.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22



This week it is about connecting your personal identity or talents not only with the outer world but within close intimate relationships as well. Find your center point of operation and consider what gifts you are carrying that you can utilized to inspire and enlighten the people around you. Get shining.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22



An eruption of divine understanding is brewing this week. There is a situation that has been operating under the surface of your daily routine or lifestyle that may not be serving you like it should. Be prepared to embrace a new understanding or awareness of how to operate at your optimum level.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22



There is a vibration of higher energy coming your way that will expand your approach to uncomfortable situations you may have been struggling with for the past six months. This is about being calm and accepting guidance. Sometimes the answers we need come from unexpected sources.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22



The opportunity not only to be noticed but accepted is coming your way this week. You will see that your reputation is built on what you say and feel about yourself. It is the image you create that is being projected out onto the world. Utilize positive self-dialogue and believe in yourself more.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21



It may feel like the Universe is throwing you a pop-quiz of sorts. It is best you approach any situations that test your patience or know-how in a way that frees you from doubt or second guessing. So, if that means double checking facts or asking in-depth questions, then do it. You deserve the truth.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21



You may be feeling a little more emotional or clingy this week which could cause you to be a bit more reactive to otherwise insignificant stimuli. Whether you are clinging to an actual relationship, or a pattern of thinking, do your best to spend time with friends and talk things thru.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19



The energy this week is a balancing energy, therefore it is important not to take sides in family arguments. Remain neutral and open to both sides of the situation. Things will play out of their own accord. By practicing stillness many problems can be resolved without elevating stress levels.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Adaptations or changes you made to your daily routine will feel firmly established this week creating the opportunity to focus on your work more. You may have to confront some competition or some self-limiting ideas but you will do so with confidence and a real desire for change. Go hard.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20



Something you left behind or had to walk away from will resurface, giving you the opportunity to create more wealth and/or happiness for yourself. Understand that our wishes are delayed when we are not in a place to fully appreciate their worth. You are ready and you can have all that you want.

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

	5		4	8				
7		8			5			
			1		7			
3		5	2				4	
		7	6					1
	1					2		7
2							5	
4	8			1	3			
			7	4		3		

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Examine
5 Soap-frame bar
9 Turf
12 Hatred (Ital.)
13 Egypt. cross
14 Guido's note (2 words)
15 Knee (Lat.)
16 Growl
17 Block
18 Size of coal
20 Pompano
22 Wealth
25 Drunk driving (abbr.)
26 Pointed (pref.)
27 Drop
29 Canadian island
33 Pasteboard
35 Public vehicle
37 Voucher
38 Buddhist Mongol
40 Luzon people
42 Haitian voodoo deity
43 Son of Ra

- 45 Overcoat
47 Calm
51 N.Z. woody vine
52 Atlantic (abbr.)
53 Buddhist monk
55 Opera heroine
58 Female ruff
59 Norse mythical hero
60 Trolley
61 Period
62 Rigid hair
63 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (abbr.)

DOWN

- 1 Clothe
2 Gelderland city
3 Easy job
4 Hard
5 Wilt
6 Sicilian resort
7 Norse poet

- 8 Cagey
9 Fat (pref.)
10 Viking
11 Defy
19 General equivalency diploma (abbr.)
21 City on the Danube

- 22 Sprint
23 Adjective-forming (suf.)
24 Pouch
28 Sheep's cry
30 Arouet
31 Sioux tribe
32 Close
34 It. actress
36 Heat unit
39 Gr. author
41 Axilla
44 Way
46 Ray
47 Berne's river
48 Wing (pref.)
49 Excuse
50 Discharge
54 Alabama (abbr.)
56 Burmese knife
57 Television channel

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58				59					60			
61				62					63			

Good habits formed at youth make all the difference.
— Aristotle

SCHOLASTICS

Lindley approved as interim principal at New Buffalo Elementary School

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education approved employing Dr. Michael Lindley in the position of interim elementary principal at their Monday, Jan. 8, meeting.

Superintendent Adam Bowen said that, while he's sure there're "many questions out there" regarding the topic, he couldn't discuss "any of those details" due to it being a personnel matter.

"I'm thankful Dr. Lindley is able to help us out for a short period of time and I'm sure he's going to be just perfect over there," he said.

Michael Megyesi was hired as principal at New Buffalo Elementary School last June.

Lindley, who was a past superintendent for New Buffalo, served as interim superintendent last school year after the previous one resigned.

During public comments, parent Donna Messinger spoke regarding an incident involving an employee offering alcohol to staff members and students Dec. 21.

Per a written statement from Bowen, after becoming "aware of the allegations, the District conducted a thorough fact finding investigation, the employee was placed on non-disciplinary, paid administrative leave pending further investigation, and the District worked cooperatively with law enforcement agencies."

"Moreover, the District also contacted parents and addressed questions regarding the incident," the statement said.

Messinger said that the following sentence appears in the athletic contract in the student handbook: "Students who find themselves in attendance at a

social gathering with illegal substances shall call their coach or athletic director and then leave immediately."

"What if we have a situation at school and we have drinking and what if the person drinking is a teacher - what do we do then? Who do we call - the superintendent? Who do we talk to about that?" she asked.

Messinger said that the following sentence appears in the athletic contract in the student handbook: "Students who find themselves in attendance at a social gathering with illegal substances shall call their coach or athletic director and then leave immediately."

Messinger added that she wonders what "stipulations are for teachers that are breaking rules at school, since there are rules for the students."

The following board members were elected to the following offices for 2024: Lisa Werner, president; Denise Churchill, vice president; Vannessa Thun, secretary and John Haskins, treasurer.

Regarding Bison Preserve, the Planned Unit Development that is scheduled to be located across from

the elementary school, Bowen said that Werner and Churchill, along with the project's potential developer, met with New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit and Estelle Brinkman, the township's zoning administrator, last month at the township hall.

Werner said that questions were asked about applications of the PUD, adding that it was an informational meeting on what the next steps are for the district and the developer.

She said a "pretty rapid timeline" was discussed, as the district wants to get a single-family home site in place for the Building Trades class for the fall.

Bowen added that there's no signed construct with the developer yet; however, he hopes to have one sometime this month.

Board members adopted the following board policy

updates: 4402-R, 4403-R, 4405-R and 4503-R effective July 1 and 4108, 4207, 4404, 4407, 4408, 4504, 4402, 4403, 4405, 4409 and 4503, effective June 3

Bowen said that the policies were adopted upon recommendation from the district's law firm, Thrun, due to the new Michigan Public Relations Employment laws that will go into effect next year that "will impact labor relations."

Bowen said that work on the elementary school's ongoing kitchen renovation and cafeteria expansion and BASE office is two weeks behind schedule due to rain, the holidays, inaccurate footing installation and the lack of labor onsite; however, he heard work could be done "simultaneously" by multiple trades to get everything back on track in the coming weeks. Currently, the block walls are being corrected for the expansion and the BASE office.

Board members heard that Adam Forker has been approved by Bowen for employment for freshman boys' basketball.

Staff members will have a professional development day next Monday, since there's no school, and the entire district will be participating in safety training from the school resource officers. In addition, elementary staff will have some writing professional development on the curriculum, WritingCity. Everyone who works a door in the district will have special training on door protocols, safety protocol scenarios and preventive measures.

At the end of the meeting, board members convened into closed session to conduct a periodic personnel matter.

Attempted murder alleged in tent

BY STAN MADDUX

A Michigan City man is charged with attempted murder for pulling the trigger on a gun aimed at the head of an ex-girlfriend.

The gun, though, did not fire.

La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan said the evidence shows the intent of the suspect was to kill the woman but the gun jammed.

“All of this stuff we’re going to use to prove our case,” he said.

Robert Rosenbourgh, 36, could face an up to 40 year sentence on the level 1 felony charge.

According to court documents, he and the woman after briefly dating broke off their relationship.

The next day, police said he showed up while she was visiting family members living inside tents in a wooded area behind the Dunes Plaza shopping mall in Michigan City along U.S. 20.

Court records show Rosenbourgh allegedly grabbed her by the throat but the woman managed to break loose and run into another tent.

Police said Rosenbourgh followed her and pointed a gun to her head then pulled the trigger.

Witnesses told investigators they heard the man tell her he was going to kill her just before the gun misfired.

He’s also facing drug dealing charges filed last month and has prior convictions for selling narcotics and gun related crimes.

Hikers to explore endangered Michigan wetlands

The Harbor Country Hikers will explore one of West Michigan’s rare moist acidic sandy flatwoods at the New Buffalo Area Schools’ (NBAS) Nature Study Trails at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20.

According to Pat Fisher, Hikers president and hike leader for this event, these environments are endangered because they often fall outside the protection of Michigan’s wetland laws.

The NBAS trails, combined with the adjacent Turtle Creek preserve, offer more than four miles of trails through a large assortment of native flora and fauna living harmoniously in ancient beachheads, wide ravines, streams, a planted prairie, marshes, floodplains, hardwood forests and seasonally wet flatwoods. Plans for the Jan. 20 hike are to cover two or three miles of those trails. The hike is rated moderately difficult to difficult.

Though membership is preferred, all are welcome to join this hike. Those who attend are advised to dress for the weather, wear a warm cap and sturdy shoes or boots, and bring plenty of water. Depending on the weather, there may be some muddy or icy areas. For more information, including driving directions to the NBAS Nature Study Trails, visit www.harborcountryhikers.com or the group’s Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS

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Citizens for Local Choice Submits Initiative Petition to the Bureau of Elections

The Ballot Campaign Committee, “Citizens for Local Choice,” today submitted an initiative petition to the Bureau of Elections to amend the Clean and Renewable Energy and Energy Waste Reduction Act to, among other things, repeal Part 8 as added by Public Act 233 of 2023. The Committee has requested approval of the Summary of Purpose and pre-approval as to form.

The Summary of Purpose provided to the Bureau for consideration provides:

“A proposed initiated law to allow local units of government to retain authority to regulate the development of solar, wind, or energy storage facilities in their jurisdictions by repealing laws that mandate statewide standards for energy facilities and permit the Michigan Public Service Commission to override local energy facility development decisions. If enacted, this proposal will allow local units of government to continue to determine their own standards regarding setback distance, structure height, and the amount of light and sound emitted by energy facilities, and to exercise final authority over the construction of energy facilities within their jurisdictions.”

The summary will be prepared by the Director of Elections for consideration by the Board of Canvassers. The Board of Canvassers is expected to approve the petition within 30 days, following which the Committee will be granted a 180-day window to gather and file the necessary 356,958 valid signatures from registered voters. To ensure placement on the November 2024 ballot, valid signatures must be submitted by May 29th; otherwise, the initiative will proceed to the November 2026 ballot. For those wishing to participate in the effort, additional details can be found at www.micitizenschoice.org.

Paid for with regulated funds by Citizens for Local Choice, P.O. Box 14309 Lansing, MI 48901.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC AUCTION

1986 Invader boat, owner Tom Bruce of Michigan City, IN for back storage and service. Auction to be held at Harbor Country Marine, 819 W Buffalo St, New Buffalo, MI 49117 on February 2, 2024 at 10 am.

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Raising funds for the plunge at annual pancake breakfast

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Even though they'll be facing off against each other when they make the plunge into icy waters less than a month from now, members of the New Buffalo Township Fire Department and Berrien County Sheriff's Office once again joined forces to raise money for a good cause at a pancake breakfast at the New Buffalo Township Public Safety Building Saturday, Jan. 6.

Proceeds from the breakfast went toward the Southwest Michigan Polar Plunge Saturday, Feb. 3, at Watermark Brewing Company, which raises money for Special Olympics Michigan.

New Buffalo Township Assistant Fire Chief Mike Plis said that this was their second joint fundraiser. Last year, they served between 500 to 700 people.

Money the fire department raises from the breakfast will be split with the sheriff's office. Plis said that they raised \$2,000 last year for the polar plunge. Money is also being raised online.

"We're just trying to raise as much money as we can for a good cause," Plis said.

So far, the plunge team consists of around six people. Plis, who hopes to take the plunge again this year, hopes they can recruit more.

Last year, the sheriff's office team raised \$20,000.

Sgt. Michael Troup, the county's homeland security specialist, said that they hope to surpass that goal this year.

He added that lots of local people and businesses also donated.

"All the money goes to the athletes, so it's fantastic," he said.

The team so far consists of 11 to 13 brave plungers.

Troup said his wife, Melissa, while not making the plunge, has been getting the word out about fundraising via social media. His two children will also be there the day of the plunge to show their support.

Both refuse to dive into the icy water, although Troup said he's trying to talk his son into it.

Registration/check-in will open in the Patio Area of Watermark at 10 a.m. Plunging in the PLUNGESTER, semi-truck-sized pool on wheels, will take place at noon, with the After Splash Bash in Watermark's Solarium following at 1:30 pm.

According to www.plungemi.org, the Polar Plunge is the biggest fundraiser for Special Olympics Michigan. All funds raised by Plungers help Special Olympics Michigan provide year-round training and services to over 23,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities across the state. It's presented by the Law Enforcement Torch Run, a movement of volunteers dedicated to increasing awareness and funds for Special Olympics Michigan athletes across the state.

Over \$125,000 was raised from last year's Southwest Michigan Polar Plunge.

Watermark Brewing is located at 5781 St. Joseph Ave. in Stevensville.



Members of the sheriff's office and fire department serve guests



Guests enjoy the pancake breakfast



Sgt. Michael Troup flips pancakes



Members of the New Buffalo Royal Court volunteer at the breakfast



Little Miss New Buffalo First Runner-up to Amelia Brough and Miss Jr. Teen New Buffalo Kate Welsh enjoy the free balloons



Adelyn Droltz, Lexi Troup and Sabrina Laratta volunteer at the breakfast



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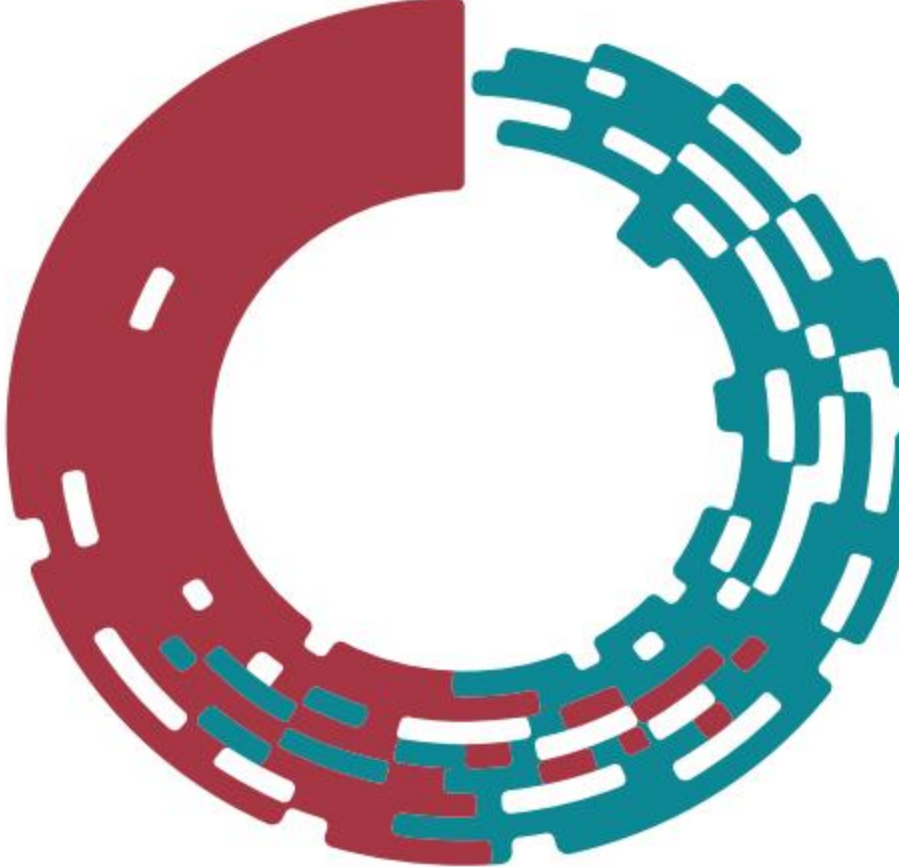


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